

## John Coffee to Andrew Jackson, December 10, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN COFFEE TO JACKSON.

Camp Brahan, December 10, 1813

*Dear Genl.* I fear you have thought me negligent, by not reporting myself to you before this since my arrival at this place, but I know you are not unaware of some difficulties in this branch of your army, as well as the many in all its members. It would really seem that our difficulties are never to be at an end for no sooner than one obstacle is removed a new one presents itself. On the 8th Instant myself and a very few men arrived here pursuant to your Order, the default I was not much disappointed in, as the weather was so unfavourable to traveling. I therefore thought it unnecessary to write you untill I had some valuable information to give, and determined on delaying untill the Brigade would generally reach camp. On the evening of the 9th. I had about 500. men and officers, I then issued orders, that a detachment should march this morning to the river and commence crossing, and just at the moment I thought they were about to march, a demand was formally made by the Captains of the Cavalry Regt, on Col Allcorn for a discharge from the service, the Col handed it over to me, now instead of marching I had to set about removing this unauthorised, and unmilitary conduct, and after issuing orders appropriate to the occasion, together with the very warm and patriotic personal address of our neighbour Col Ward, I believe I shall be able to wield the Brigade for the present and will very early tomorrow morning move on a part to the River under Col Allcorn to commence crossing and will follow after with the balance so as to keep the boats always engaged untill we get over the River—as there are a number of men not yet come up that the Captains have great reliance on following to this place. I presume the last will not cross the River untill the

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thirteenth. tomorrow morning and before this leaves me I will give you my strength here which I am sorry to say is far short of my expectations, notwithstanding several companies lately raised will follow after me and will some of them probably overtake before I reach you. Capt. Crane from Robertson is one, and Major Murray of Williamson an other, after I cross the River no delay shall take place on my part, but will push on to you with all possible dispatch.

11th. Decr 1813—this morning the Brigade report is 814 men and officers now in camp and fit for duty. very early I marched about 200. to the river to cross today and about ten OClock, the Cavalry Regt. moved off under the command of Col Dyer and will reach the river tonight, tomorrow morning I will move off the whole, we are still strengthening, I think one thousand a proper number to calculate on of my Brigade, I shall proceed immediately to Huntsville and will see the contractors. . . .